

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## It’s Not Just an Act, There’s a New Theatre Professor On Campus

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“I think there’s a lot of room for growth and expansion in this department, but it doesn’t start with me. It starts with you all,” said Sean Naughton, one of twelve new faculty members on campus.

Meanwhile, in the Communicating Arts Department students had the chance to meet their new Theatre professor Sean Naughton.

Before the University of Wisconsin-Superior, Naughton had over twenty years of experience acting in commercials, films, and different theaters. He says that it was the combined major of theater and film that brought him to UWS as they are both programs that can benefit from each other.

“I’m also really excited about what this theater program can be. There’s a ton of really passionate students that are looking to do theater,” said Naughton. “I want to bring a highly theatrical, really, really maximalist



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Photo by Drew Kerner

theater program here to UWS and do some really cool stuff with it.”

During the meet and greet, students had the chance to introduce themselves and talk about their theater experiences.

Between the laughs, banter, and empty pizza boxes, the students that attended felt closer to the newest member of the UWS Theatre community.

“I absolutely love him. He’s amazing as a professor,” said Ky Schreiner (they/them), an attendee of the meet and greet. “I’m definitely excited for him just to be here. I have

him as my acting professor currently, and he’s amazing.”

This year Naughton will be directing the play “She Kills Monsters”. The playwright looks to focus on Angus, who through grief plays through a Dungeon and Dragons’ campaign to feel closer to her deceased sister.

On top of the play this fall, Naughton also teaches acting for the stage and theater appreciation. Naughton says that he looks forward to potentially teaching acting for the camera in the future.

## #Bettertogether Reconnects People After Pandemic

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The pandemic no doubt took a toll on our Mental Health. Douglas County residents found that this was no different, if anything slightly higher struggles than surrounding areas. One new organization is trying to help with this. Live Well Northern Wisconsin is a little less than a year old, established in September of 2022 is working on several strategies to help fight back.

They have established #Bettertogether activities that can be found around Douglas County. They have had several events ranging from Yoga, campfires, card making, meat dehydration events and more.

These events are free of charge and encourage social gathering, and are open to all ages and family friendly. They take in consideration the ability for all abilities to access the sites and attend the events. Live Well has a number of events throughout the fall.

Activities taking place after Oct. 6 include a chat about cooking and processing venison, a book club for fans of William Kent Krueger, a Barker’s



Live Well’s welcoming space at the Superior Public Library tries to bring people together with a puzzle.

Photo by Genevive Teasley

Island walk, and a roller skating night at World of Wheels.

Another project that Live Well Northern Wisconsin is working on implementing is having Welcoming spaces which promote social connection. They are places that will be open to the public, with plans to be started at both the Jim Dan Hill Library and the Superior Public Library. It will be a table with puzzles, conversation cards with the hopes to “spark conversations,” said Kennedy Fenster, a Live Well Northern Wisconsin staff member and UWS Department Assistant for the Human Behavior Justice and Diversity department. “If you are sitting there, you are welcoming others to join you.”

Yet another way to promote social connection is through their Pop-up Conversation domes.

These domes have been spotted around town a few times since January.

The first spot these were found was at the Ice Festival at Barkers Island. They have made it out a few more times since the snow melted, once at UWS and once at a recent



Live Well’s Pop-Up Domes  
Photo courtesy of Kennedy Fenster

porchfest. Live Well is hoping to find ways to have them be displayed for several days as a way to attract others to pop in and connect with some-

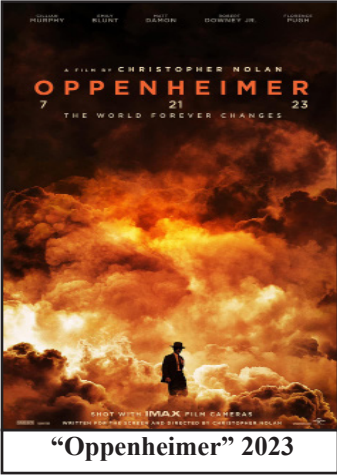
## REVIEW | Oppenheimer

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Writer-Director Christopher Nolan tackles world-changing history with his latest movie “Oppenheimer,” starring Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer. The movie also features stars such as Florence Pugh and Robert Downey Jr. The latter plays Lewis Strauss, the psychologically-twisted American government official.

“Oppenheimer” is as much a biography as it is a dense character study, which puts you in the mind of the father of the atomic bomb; this beautifully-presented history lesson indulges you to battle Oppenheimer’s journey with him, casting doubts on each history-defining decision he must make whilst creating the atomic bomb. With such a relevant piece of art, Nolan has rebirthed the still-crucial arguments that Oppenheimer both started and tried to end.

The plot of the movie centers around the development of the atomic bomb, and Oppenheimer’s part in this creation, as well as the judgment of his patriotism due to loose communist ties. Lewis Strauss is the frontrunner of the claim that Oppenheimer is guilty of keeping a relationship with the Soviets, and the latter stages of the movie is a courtroom battle between Oppenheimer’s party and Strauss himself.



The movie is set within two time periods, pre and post war. Before the war, the world was in color, whereas the film turns black and white once Oppenheimer is accused of being a communist spy. He was then stripped of his security clearance, which no longer allowed him to work on the nation’s atomic secrets - science that he had played a vital role in developing over the course of the Second World War.

A run-time of three hours suggests one must remain invested in this spectacle, as moments missed could cause confusion later on in the movie. Many other Hollywood A-listers feature in this star-studded cast, such as Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Rami Malek and Gary Oldman to name a few. The movie is worthy of the complicated man it portrays, and I would highly recommend watching for yourself and creating your own judgment on J. Robert Oppenheimer, although you might need to free up your schedule before you observe this phenomenon.

My review: 9/10

one who might be already in them.

“They will have chairs and blankets, depending on the time of year, and in the chair pockets there will be conversation cards.” Fenster said.

Live Well Northern Wisconsin is working on promoting social connections and is open to hearing about different ideas that can help. They are also open to others leading a group activity. “It doesn’t have to be anything unique, just something that you enjoy and you think others might enjoy as well.” Fenster said.

If you want to connect with Live Well Northern Wisconsin or would like to know more about it’s organization please connect with them through their website.

## Campus Calender

- 10/9  
\*\*\*Last Day to drop a class with a “W” grade\*\*\*  
Indigenous Peoples Day - 5-7 p.m.
- 10/12  
Undergraduate Research Symposium - 3 p.m.  
Tri-State Jazz Festival - 7 p.m.
- 10/14  
Superior Soiree - 5 p.m.
- 10/16  
Career Cafe - 11 a.m.
- 10/19  
Fall Bingo - 7 p.m.
- 10/23-24  
\*\*\*Fall Break\*\*\*
- 10/26  
Intercultural Coffee Hour
- 10/31  
\*\*\*Happy Halloween\*\*\*  
Halloween Candy Haul Bingo and Costume Contest - 5 p.m.